

DDS EMPLOYEE NEWS

Governor M. Jodi Rell

Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara

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DDS Announces New Appointments

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) recently announced the appointments of **Gerald E. Daley** as Agency Personnel Administrator 3 in the Human Resource Management Division and **Joseph W. Drexler, Esq.** as Director of the Operations Center.

Mr. Daley started with DDS in 1994 working at the Seaside Regional Center, South Central Region, as a Human Resources Manager and most recently as the Human Resource Director for the North Region since 2003. Before joining state service, Mr. Daley was Vice President of Human Resources for Contel IPC, Inc., a division of GTE Corporation that provided specialized telecommunications to the international financial services industry. He began his human resources career in 1979 as a Personnel Analyst for the Town of West Hartford. Mr. Daley holds a Bachelor's degree from Fairfield University and has taken graduate business courses at the University of Connecticut.

Mr. Daley's new responsibilities will include fostering a positive working relationship with collective bargaining representatives as well as to continue to ensure a high level of support for all of our managers and employees.

Mr. Drexler began his career as a direct support staff in 1978 and worked in a variety of direct support, supervisory and management roles in the not-for-profit community prior to joining the department in 1988 as Assistant Regional Director for the Northwest Region. Over the years, he has served as an Assistant to the Commissioner, and as Assistant Regional Director in the Southeast Region, the South Central Region, the Eastern Region, and the current South Region. He has extensive program management, contracting, and fiscal experience.

Mr. Drexler has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Stonehill College and a Juris Doctor from the University of Connecticut School of Law. He is a member of the Connecticut Bar and has been active in his local community.

Aging Coordinator

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) recently announced the formation of an Aging Services division and the appointment of a new Aging Services Coordinator.

There are over 2,500 individuals served by DDS who are over the age of 55. Over the years, the Aging Focus Team advised the department on the priorities and the future needs of aging individuals, including the development of new service alternatives and integration of aging persons into generic elderly programs. With support from the Governor's Council on Developmental Services, the department announced its commitment to the new services.

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Aging Coordinator (continued)

In February 2008, **Siobhan Morgan** was appointed as the Aging Services Coordinator. She will manage statewide coordination of supports and services for aging consumers, including residential options, day and retirement supports, and health and clinical services to address individuals' health, safety and support needs. Ms. Morgan will also manage the Aging Focus Team.

Ms. Morgan joined the DDS in 1994 and has been a Supervisor of Case Management since 2002. She has extensive experience with individuals across the lifespan who have intellectual disabilities. In addition, she has served on numerous regional and statewide committees including the Waiting List Task Force and the Self-Determination Committee. Ms. Morgan has a Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Studies from Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) and has also completed Master's level coursework at SCSU.

Retirement: The Biggest Job You'll Ever Have

By Abby Anderson, MS, LPC, CEAP Solutions EAP Program Coordinator

When contemplating retirement, usually the first thing that comes to mind is the financial aspect. After all, if we are no longer working, how will the bills get paid? Even if you have no mortgage payment, there are still taxes (until and after you die!), utilities, medical expenses, transportation, food, recreation, etc. This can produce anxiety among even the most prepared individual. But that's getting ahead of ourselves. The financial aspect is important but before we can make good money choices, it is necessary to know what retirement means to you as an individual and/or couple.

How do you see retirement? Traveling to new places? How often? Once a year? Becoming a snow bird and living in two locations for different seasons? Living life pretty much the way you do now except not having to go to work every day? Visiting your family more often? Working part-time at a job you'd love to do, but doesn't fit in your life now?

As you question your future, be sure to take into account the impact of your decisions on others. Make sure it's compatible with your spouse, partner, or family. They may have surprising feedback and it's necessary to



listen and discuss these things to make sure your retirement is a success. This is an emotional decision but one that is benefited by looking at it from all angles. It sometimes helps to talk it through with an objective person and your EAP is an excellent resource. Call Solutions EAP at 1-800-526-3485 for assistance for all of life's challenges. It's free, confidential and open to your family members. **Check us out on-line at www.solutions-eap.com.**

Department of Developmental Services

www.ct.gov/dds

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www.solutions-eap.com ♦ 24/7 Assistance ♦ 1-800-526-3485

Questions?

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